Complaint lodged by journalists covering Prime Minister's visit to U.S.A.

*47 DR BAPU KALDATE:
SHRI BISWA GOSWAMI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention have been drawn to a news item regarding a complaint made by journalists covering Prime Minister's recent visit to the USA in 'the Hindu' of 21st June, 1985;

(b) whether a joint complaint was lodged with the Prime Minister by these journalists;

(c) if so, what are the details of the complaints; and

(d) what action has been taken against the concerned Press Officials of the Prime Minister's Office?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) Yes, Sir. Government have seen a news item to this effect in 'the Hindu' of 20th June, 1985.

(b) Yes Sir.

(c) and (d) The main complaints are mentioned in the news item. The complaints have been looked into. There was no evidence of misconduct on the part of the concerned PM officials.

Retirement age for C.R.P.F. personnel

*48. SHRI RAJNI RANJAN SAHU: Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to raise the age of retirement of C.R.P.F. pesonnel from 55 to 58 years, in view of the increase in longevity and better health maintenance by such personnel; and

(b) if so, by when the decision is likely to be taken?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) No proposal to raise the present age of retirement of the various C.R.P.F. personnel is under consideration of the Government.

Meetings of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission

*49. SHRI BIR BHADRA PRATAP SINGH:
SHRI B. SATYANARAYAN REDDY:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the outcome of the meetings of the Indo-Pak Joint Commission recently held in New Delhi;

(b) whether the question of increasing bilateral trade between the two countries was also discussed; and

(c) if so, what are the details thereof and what further action is proposed to be taken to implement the decisions arrived at?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) to (c) The second meeting of India-Pakistan Joint Commission was held in New Delhi from 2nd to 4th July, 1985. Some of the important decisions taken at the meeting were: (i) signing of an agreement on cooperation in agricultural research; (ii) consideration of the draft text for a cultural agreement; (iii) waiver of the requirement of police reporting in respect of bonafide businessmen and holders of transit visa. (vi) finalisation of through railway booking facilities between designated railway stations with effect from 1st October, 1985; (v) agreement on setting up of a working group for cooperation in the field of planning to be preceded

by a seminar in Islamabad on the same subject; (vi) agreement on exchange of information to check the illegal trafficking in narcotics; and (vii) exchange of radio correspondents.

The question of development of bilateral trade between the two countries was also discussed. However, there was no progress. Sub-Commission-II dealing with trade, like the other three Sub-Commissions, will be meeting again before the end of this year.

Western plot to destablise India

*50. SHRI DINKARRAO GOVINDRAO PATIL: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of a Western plot with operational headquarters at Islamabad to destabilise the four Indian States of Jammu and Kashmir, the Punjab, Gujarat and Rajasthan; and

(b) if so, what steps Government have taken in this regard ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI KHURSHID ALAM KHAN): (a) and (b) Government have no information to this effect. However, vigilance is constantly maintained regarding developments across the border which may have a bearing on our internal security.

Consensus on Reservation Policy

*51. SHRI SURAJ PRASAD:

SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA:

Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have any proposal to re-examine the reservation policy; and

(b) whether Government intend to call an all party meeting to arrive at a consensus on the issue?

THE MINISTER OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI S. B. CHAVAN): (a) and (b) The Government have no proposal to re-examine the existing reservation policy for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes as provided in the Constitution.

With regard to reservation for the other backward classes, there is need to evolve a national consensus. The modality for achieving such national consensus is under consideration.

Landing of AI flight with very low fuel at Montreal

*52. SHRI DHARAM CHANDER PRASHANT:

SHRI SURESH KALMADI:

Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that flight AI-109 from London to New York landed with very low fuel at Montreal on the 19th April, 1985; and

(b) whether any enquiry has been held in the case and responsibility fixed for this gross negligence and action taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF TOURISM AND CIVIL AVIATION (SHRI ASHOK GEHLOT): (a) Air India's AI-109 flight from London to New York landed at Toronto and not Montreal on the 19th April, 1985. The aircraft could not land at John F. Kennedy airport in New York due to thunder storm and subsequent airport closure. It was made to hold under radar control and was given height and directions to fly. At deadline fuel to diversion, the Captain asked the controller for diversion to Montreal, the planned alternate. The Radar Controller in New York, however, kept the aircraft at low level for quite